

**Determination
Standards for Rangeland Health and
Conformance with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management**

Field Office: Jarbidge Field Office			Watershed Name: Cedar Creek						
Allotment Name/Number: Cedar Creek / 1131									
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th colspan="3" style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">Public Land (acres)</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Upland: 45,954</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Riparian: 2</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Total: 24,945</td> </tr> </table>			Public Land (acres)			Upland: 45,954	Riparian: 2	Total: 24,945	Streams on Public Land (miles): Cedar Creek (6.9 mi.)
Public Land (acres)									
Upland: 45,954	Riparian: 2	Total: 24,945							
Date(s) of Field Assessment: 2002-03			Name of Permittee(s): Cedar Creek Cattle Co.						

Assessment Participants (Name & Discipline or Interest):

Arnie Pike, Rangeland Management Specialist
James Klott, Wildlife Biologist
Clare Josaitis, Natural Resource Specialist
John Ash, Natural Resource Specialist
Sheri Hagwood, Botanist
Patricia Courtney, Range Technician

Standard 1 (Watersheds)

Check those that apply: *[One or more boxes must be checked.]*

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

Most of the allotment is stable with no ongoing erosion. Bare ground was slightly higher in a few of the native vegetation areas, ranging from 5 to 20 percent and seeded areas ranging from

22 to 29 percent in the seeded vegetation communities. Generally, based on reference areas, bare ground should be less than 10 percent. There is also a high amount of bare ground in some of the aspen stands. While of concern, these areas are relatively small. Management practices such as locating supplemental feeding (salt, mineral block) and water sites away from these areas would mitigate the concern.

Standard 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands)

Check those that apply: *[One or more boxes must be checked.]*

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	X Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	X Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s). <u>5</u>

Rationale/Information Sources:

Most of Cedar Creek is fenced from cattle use, however, the fence is being maintained and the cattle are able to access the riparian area. Young willows have been rubbed and previous years' canes are largely damaged or broken.

Standard 3 (Stream Channel/Floodplain)

Check those that apply: *[One or more boxes must be checked.]*

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	X Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	X Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s). <u>7</u>

Rationale/Information Sources:

Cattle are accessing the creek through fences that are not maintained and are trampling and shearing streambanks. Stream banks that are not protected by woody vegetation have been mechanically damaged by livestock use, causing the stream channel to widen and straighten.

Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	X Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	X Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s). <u>1, 12</u>

Rationale/Information Sources:

Most of the native plant communities meet this Standard. An exception is on the west portion of the Highway Pasture big sagebrush plants are decadent and cheatgrass is common in the plant community. Another exception is the aspen stands where cattle congregate to get out of the shade. In some of these stands, the understory vegetation is heavily trampled and unidentifiable.

Standard 5 (Seedings)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	X Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	X Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s). <u>9</u>

Rationale/Information Sources:

The seedings met most of the indicators of the Standard 5 for Seedings with the exception of Invasive species. Diffuse knapweed has been noted in the lower elevation pastures (Roseworth Reservoir and Highway Fields) in the Cedar Creek Allotment and has expanded into the seedings in some areas. Heavy use on four-wing saltbush, seeded into crucial mule deer winter range, has resulted in severe hedging and mortality on this important browse species. The use appears to be being made by livestock in the summer and fall prior to mule deer moving onto the winter range. Bare ground was relatively high in seedings varying from 22 percent to 29 percent. Biological soil crusts were low (0 to 4 percent) in seedings. The soil crusts were early seral species. This is expected due to the impacts of wild fire and drill seeding.

Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities, Other than Seedings)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
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Rationale/Information Sources:

Standard 7 (Water Quality)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
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Rationale/Information Sources:

A brief water quality summary discussion of the creek concludes that; for the past ten years (1993-02), Cedar Creek has been basically meeting all State water quality standards for the beneficial uses of a cold water biota and secondary recreation contact stream. However, maximum temperatures have approached the threshold of 22° C a few times in 1993, '94, '96, '01 and '02. Also, a one-day-in-time fecal coliform count exceeded the standard of 800 per 100 ml in 1996. Other coliform counts have been at 800/100ml or less for the most part at other data collection times. More specific and dedicated coliform monitoring is probably needed in the future to reach a better understanding of this water quality attribute. All other water quality attributes measured by the BLM appear to be within the State's water quality limits and standards for the beneficial uses of this stream. No biological water parameters have been monitored by the BLM in this creek.

Additionally, there are a few other open waters within the allotment consisting of springs and ponds. The quality of these waters has not been monitored by the BLM. Most water for livestock use is distributed throughout much of the allotment by means of pipelines and troughs. Sources for these pipeline systems come from either a spring on BLM land or a ground water well on private land. The quality of these sources is not monitored by the BLM either, but is assumed to be of high quality since they come directly from the individual sources.

Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

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<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	X Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
X Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

The presence of sagebrush for sage grouse is the greatest concern here. The low presence of sage brush is mainly resulting from wildfire.

Determination

I have determined that the applicable Standards for Rangeland Health 1 and 7 are being met in the Cedar Creek Allotment. Standards 2, 3, 4 and 5 are not being met and are not making significant progress and livestock grazing practices are a significant factor. Standard 8 is not being met and livestock are not a significant factor. Current livestock practices do not conform with some of the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

/s/ E. Guerrero
Field Manager

5/12/04
Date